

كنيسة مار نقولا الأنطاكية الأرثوذكسية

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Antiochian Archdiocese of North America

Diocese of Los Angeles and the West

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His Eminence **Metropolitan JOSEPH**, Archbishop
of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

Pastor, V. Rev. Fr. **George Baalbaki**

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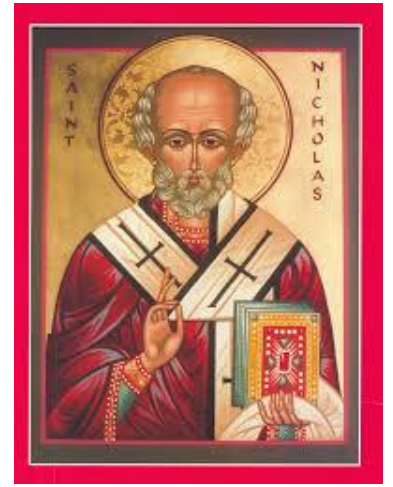
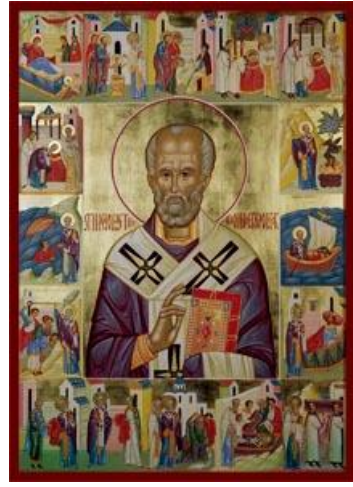
Pastor Emeritus, V. Rev. Fr. **Gregory Ofiesh**

Sub-Dn. **Michel Khoury**

Sub-Dn. **Ilyan Baalbaki**

Parish Council Chairman: **Ramzi Srouji**

Parish Council Vice Chairman: **Salim Qaru**



Sunday, January 26, 2020

("Zacchaeus")

House Blessings are underway:

If you have not received a phone call from the church office yet, please reach out and contact us to set up a time for a home blessing from Father George. You can also reach him at 586 214 4428

THE EPISTLE: St. Timothy. (4:9-15)

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, Who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Until I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties; devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.

الرسالة: اتيموثاوس ٤ : ٩-١٥

يا إخوة، صادقة هي الكلمة وجديرة بكل قبول. فإننا لهذا نتعب ونُعير لأننا ألقينا رجاءنا على الله الحي الذي هو مخلص الناس أجمعين ولا سيما المؤمنين. فوص بهذا وعلم به. لا يستهن أحد بفنوتك بل كن مثالا للمؤمنين في الكلام والتصرف والمحبة والإيمان والعفاف. واطب على القراءة الى حين قدومي وعلى الوعظ والتعليم. ولا تهمل الموهبة التي فيك التي أوتيتها بنبوءة بوضع أيدي الكهنة. تأمل في ذلك وكن عليه عاكفا ليكون تقدمك ظاهرا في كل شيء.

THE GOSPEL: St. Luke. (19:1-10)

At that time, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. And he sought to see Who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Jesus, for He was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

الإنجيل: لوقا ١٩: ١-١٠

في ذلك الزمان فيما يسوع مجتاز في أريحا إذا برجل اسمه زكا كان رئيسًا على العشارين وكان غنيًا. وكان يلتمس أن يرى يسوع من هو، فلم يكن يستطيع من الجمع لأنه كان قصير القامة. فتقدم مسرعًا وصعد إلى جُميزة لينظره لأنه كان مزمعا أن يجتاز بها. فلما انتهى يسوع إلى الموضع رفع طرفه فرآه فقال له: يا زكا أسرع انزل فالיום ينبغي لي أن أمكث في بيتك. فأسرع ونزل وقبله فرحًا. فلما رأى الجميع ذلك تدمروا قائلين: إنه دخل ليحلّ عند رجل خاطئ. فوقف زكا وقال ليسوع: ها أنذا يا رب أعطي المساكين نصف أموالني، وإن كنت قد غبنتُ أحدًا في شيء أُرِدُّ أربعة أضعاف. فقال له يسوع: اليوم قد حصل الخلاص لهذا البيت لأنه هو أيضًا ابن إبراهيم، لأنّ ابن البشر إنّما أتى ليطلب ويُخلص ما قد هلك.

ONLINE GIVING:

We are pleased to tell you that you can now pay your pledge online! Go to our website <https://www.stnicholas-sf.com/>, Click here to Donate Online. Many of us today pay most of our bills online, so now you can pay your church pledge as well. Thank you for your support.

SAVE THE DATE:

- ❖ ***DATE CHANGED* ANNUAL GENERAL PARISH MEETING:** Sunday January 26th, 2020 The main item on the agenda is to discuss and approve a budget for 2020. In order to have the right to vote, you have to be spiritually qualified, a member in good standing, and dues for 2019 should be paid. Thank you.
- ❖ **TEEN SOYO FUNDRAISER:** Sunday January 26th.
- ❖ **MEN'S FELLOWSHIP MEETING:** Tuesday January 28th at St. Nicholas. Hope to see you there!
- ❖ **BIBLE BOWL STUDY:** Sunday February 2nd, Bible bowl for the teen group will begin immediately after communion. We are hosting the PLC this year so let's get first place!
- ❖ **ANNUAL VALENTINE PARTY:** Saturday February 15th. Doors: 7:30 PM. The first time in San Francisco we proudly present the famous singer from Aleppo: YOUSEF SHAMOUN. Open bar, premium dinner, and mezza. Please reserve your seats by contacting the church office.
- ❖ **TEEN SOYO SANTA CRUZ RETREAT:** Saturday March 7th.
- ❖ **PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE 2020:** We are pleased to announce that we will be hosting the PLC this year. July 1-5th at Hyatt Burlingame. We need your help with advertisements in the Souvenir Journal. More info at: www.laplc.org

2020 BIBLE BOWL: The upcoming 68th Parish Life Conference will take place on 1st - 5th July 2020 hosted by our Parish. We are seeking members to join the Bible Bowl Team Divisions; Juniors (ages: 13-15), Seniors (ages: 16-19) and Adults (20 and older). For those who would like to participate in the upcoming Bible Bowl and be part of the St. Nicholas Bible Bowl teams, please see Father George or Tariq Rantisi. 2020 Bible Bowl Topic: The Gospel of St. John. For more information please visit, 68TH ANNUAL PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE, WEBSITE <https://antiochianevents.com/la>

ALTAR CANDLE OFFERING:

Offered by St. Nicholas Church for the good health of **Hiam Habash** and for the good health of **Joseph Stephens**. God bless and many years!

ST. NICHOLAS ADULT BASKETBALL LEAGUE:

If you're 18+ and would like to compete on the Church Orthodox Youth Athletic Association from March to May, please contact Shadi Azar to be added to the roster. Roster has to be submitted by February 4th so please act fact. Open to both men and women. Shadiazar@yahoo.com – 415 279 2533.

Metropolitan Anthony SUNDAY OF ZACCHEUS

Today we are confronted with the story of Zacchaeus. There are two aspects in it to which I would like to attract your attention. On the one hand, Zacchaeus speaks to us of the most common, the most all-pervading sin which ruins our life: it is vanity, dependence on the judgement of people, longing for their approval, desire to be right in their eyes whatever our conscience says, whatever the judgement of God may be. Saint John of the Ladder says that vanity is arrogance in the face of God and cowardice in the face of men. And indeed, vanity is something in us, which eats into everything we do, into every plan, into every desire, into every hope, into everything we attempt, like rust, or to use another image of the Lord, like moth destroys all that could be beautiful in our actions, eats into good and evil, but destroys all of it, leaving only very little that can stand our own judgement, the judgement of our own conscience, and the judgement of God, but also the judgement of the people who in the end see us as we are, and turn away from us with sadness or with revulsion. Vanity is not the same thing as pride. Pride, as described by the spiritual writers, is a truly devilish attitude of one who says, 'I am self-sufficient, I need neither God, nor men! Neither God's judgement, nor men's judgement counts for me! I am my own law, and I despise all other judgement'. How different from vanity! Vanity consists of our longing, our desire to be approved of whatever the cost - and that is the terrible thing: whatever the cost! Even at the cost of our integrity, even at the cost of our faith, of our loyalty to God, of our loyalty to others, not to be condemned, not to be judged severely. And in the case of Zacchaeus, we see a man who proved able, because he so longed to be with God, so longed to see Him, the God come to save sinners, that he turned away, he trod under foot his own vanity. He, a man well known in his city, a man who was respected, a man who had a social standing, like a street boy climbed upon a tree to see Christ because he was small of stature and the crowd prevented him from meeting the gaze of His Saviour. How much he must have heard of laughter, of jokes, of cat-cries! But it mattered nothing to him; what mattered was to see Christ. Who of us has the courage to act in a similar way? Not to take, perhaps, that risk, but any risk? A few years ago, a young man came to see me who complained that we had few young men, or men altogether in our midst; and I said to him, 'Have you brought your friends here?' He looked at me with horror and said, 'I couldn't possibly speak of my faith to my friends! They might laugh at me!' That was an example of the way in which we treat God, our true, deepest convictions, our own selves, ultimately. And then, there is another aspect in the story of Zacchaeus. Because he had overcome vanity, because what mattered to him at that moment was not men's judgement but only the possibility - or otherwise - of seeing God face to face, Christ saw him alone, in the whole crowd, called him, and came to his place. And this is the second feature which I want to underline, because what Zacchaeus did, was not simply to rejoice in the coming of the Lord. He made the next step; he said to Him, 'All I have done evil, I will put right! I will put right tenfold!' This is the second condition of our salvation as presented in today's Gospel: it is not enough to shake away for one moment our vanity, our dependence upon people's judgement, to stand for one moment before the eyes of God, and then go away happily and satisfied - no! This only a beginning! And the real thing begins at the moment when we say to the Lord, 'All that I have done wrong, within my power but without fear, without greed, I will restore and repair'. And so this is what we are confronted with this week. We must look deep into ourselves and ask ourselves, 'How much does vanity destroy my life? How much does it eat into good and evil? How much does it destroy the beauty that is woven into my soul?' And secondly, if we see, however little of it - turn to God, turn to life decisively, and start putting right. But not lightly, not just enough to be satisfied with ourselves, but radically, ruthlessly, courageously, because the question is, 'Shall I become one of the followers of Christ, or shall I have a passing emotion that will die within me, and shall I be again where I was - vain, that is empty, worth of nothing?'

SAINT NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH BANQUET HALL

The Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church Banquet Hall, is the perfect venue for your next wedding reception, baptism, graduation, birthday, or conference. We offer a range of professional banquet and catering services for making any event a very personal experience for our community. Our vast and eclectic menu showcases a variety of banquet menu options and premium beverages. Our friendly and professionally trained staff will work with you to identify your needs, budget and develop the perfect event for you.

For more information contact our Church office at (415) 648-5200 or info@stnicholas-sf.com



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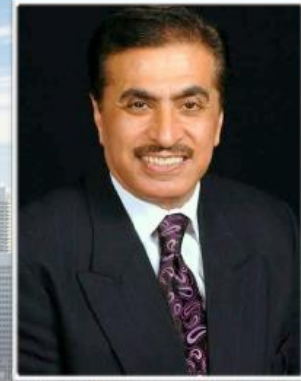
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